

10/12/25

Four-Letter Word Trivia

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

In this game, you must provide an answer for each letter of a given four-letter word. Take the word *DESK*, for example. If the first question were *Name an author for each letter*, four correct answers might be: *Dickens (Charles); Eliot (T.S.); Steinbeck (John); King (Stephen)*.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played with teams or individuals.
2. Write the four-letter word on a large pad or whiteboard.
3. Read the first question for that word. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a player/team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes. (And note: Once they buzz in, players must give their answers immediately.)
4. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. In this game, they are required to give all four correct answers to be awarded the points. If any of their four answers is incorrect, the others may 'buzz' in and answer. They, too, must give four correct answers (repeating a previous answer is allowed) in order to score points.
5. Keep score (10 points for each group of four answers) after each question is answered correctly.

Alternate way to play:

1. Print out the grid on the last page. Holding the grid horizontally and writing in the slightly shaded areas, place the four-letter word along the side (one letter per row), and write the subjects across the top.
2. Xerox a sheet for each player (or team of players) and pass them out.
3. Give your players five minutes to fill in as many correct answers as they can.
4. Allow players to keep their grids. Read the first category and the first letter aloud and have your players say their answers out loud. As they go along, players should score their own papers, receiving 2 points for every correct answer.

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QUESTIONS

Note: Wherever a person's name is asked for, we're looking for the last name unless otherwise indicated.

1. Four-Letter Word: **BEND**
 - a. Name a **COUNTRY** that starts with each letter.
 - b. Name **SOMETHING YOU WEAR** for each letter.
 - c. Name a **FAMOUS PERSON** (last name) for each letter.
 - d. Name a **CAR MAKE OR MODEL** for each letter.

2. Four-Letter Word: **MATH**
 - a. Name an **INSECT** that starts with each letter.
 - b. Come up with **TWO SIX-LETTER WORDS** that start with each letter.
(Plurals are not allowed.)
 - c. Name a **DISEASE OR AILMENT** that starts with each letter.
 - d. Name a **DESSERT** that starts with each letter.

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ANSWERS

(Other correct answers are possible.)

1. **BEND**

- a. Brazil, Ecuador, New Zealand, Denmark
- b. Blouse, Earmuffs, Nightgown, Dress
- c. Beethoven (Ludwig van), Einstein (Albert), Nader (Ralph), Damon (Matt)
- d. BMW, Explorer (Ford), Nissan, Dodge

2. **MATH**

- a. Moth, Aphid, Termite, Hornet
- b. Mammal/Mortal, Animal/Allure, Threat/Turnip, Herald/Higher
- c. Malaria, Arthritis, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis
- d. Muffins, Apple Pie, Turnover, Hot Fudge Sundae

